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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

NORTHWEST DELEGATION  
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEES

GAME & FISHERIES  
GAMING OVERSIGHT  
INSURANCE  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

August 17, 2023

Katie Merritt  
Director of Policy and Planning  
Office of Insurance Commissioner  
1326 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Director Merritt:

I write today to urge you to add coverage of multi-cancer screening panels to Pennsylvania's essential health benefits (EHB) package.

Under the Affordable Care Act, individual and small group (50 or fewer employees) health insurance policies must cover the ten categories of EHBs. Each state can select a benchmark plan to describe what specific benefits must be included in each EHB category.

Pennsylvania is behind the times. We have not updated our benchmark plan since 2017. The Insurance Department's reevaluation of Pennsylvania's EHB package shows the department's commitment to ensuring consumers get the care they need, when they need it.

Many Pennsylvanians could benefit from coverage of a multi-cancer screening panel. They can catch cancer early and let individuals know if they are at risk of developing certain cancers. That can promote health and save lives; and that's why I introduced House Bill 1492. But the legislative process takes time. And the Insurance Department, by updating Pennsylvania's EHB package, can ensure coverage of this service in individual and small group policies.

Thus, I urge you to ensure coverage of multi-cancer screening panels, including those in my House Bill 1492, is included in any update to Pennsylvania's EHB package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Merski".

Robert E. Merski  
State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District